

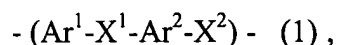
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

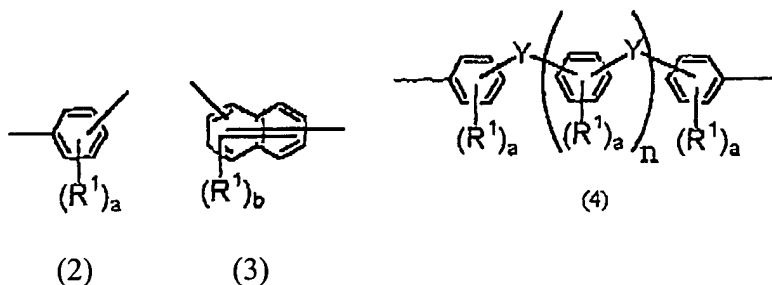
Amend the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

That is, the present invention provides a block copolymer comprising at least one segment having an acid group and at least one segment substantially free from an acid group, wherein the segment having an acid group comprises a repeating unit which is a substituted repeating unit represented in the formula (1) with an acid group,



and in the formula (1), X^1 and X^2 being each independently -O- or -S-, Ar^1 and Ar^2 being each independently an aromatic group selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (2) to (4),



wherein, R^1 is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitril ~~nitrile~~ group, a nitro group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted aryl group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, or an optionally substituted aryloxy group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, a is an integer of 0 to 4, and b is an integer of 0 to 6, in a case of plural R^1 , R^1

may be the same or different, or be bonded to each other, Y is a direct bond, -O-, -S-, an optionally substituted alkylene group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, or an optionally substituted alkylenedioxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, and n is an integer of 0 to 2, in a case of plural Y, Y may be the same or different, and in a case where both of X^1 and X^2 are -O-, both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 being not the group represented by the formula (2). And the present invention provides the use of the block copolymer.

Amend the paragraph on page 5 as follows:

R^1 in the formulae (2) to (4) is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a ~~nitril~~nitrile group, a nitro group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted aryl group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, or an optionally substituted aryloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10. In the case of the plural R^1 , R^1 may be the same as or different from each other, or be bonded to each other.

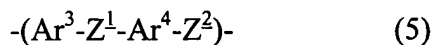
Insert the sentence after line 5 on page 5 as follows:

"The weak acid of the present invention means an acid having a pKa of 3 or more. The super acid of the present invention means an acid which is substantially stronger than 100% sulfuric acid ("Handbook of Chemistry) (Kagaku Binran), Basic Volume (II), revised 4th edition, page 324, edited by Japan Chemical Society (published from Maruzen Co., Ltd.))

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 as follows:

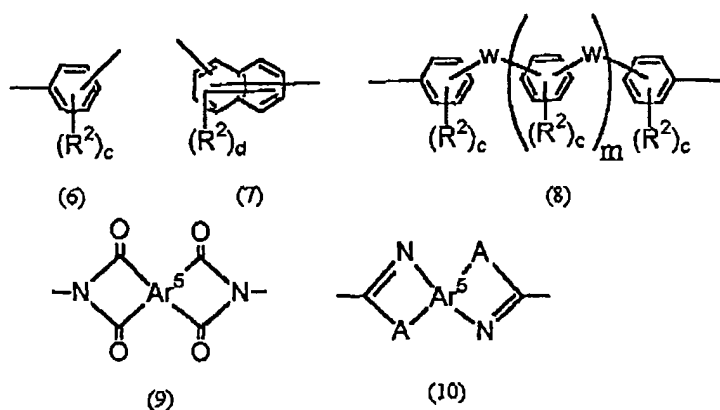
Above all, R¹ is preferably a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydroxyl group, a ~~nitryl-~~nitrile group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10 such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an allyl group, an n-butyl group, a tert-butyl group, a cyclopentyl group and a 2-ethylhexyl group, an alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10 such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an n-propyloxy group, an isopropyloxy group, an n-butyloxy group, a tert-butyloxy group, a cyclohexyloxy group and a 2-ethylhexyloxy group, an aryl group with a carbon number of 6 to 10 such as a phenyl group and a naphthyl group, an aryloxy group with a carbon number of 6 to 10 such as a phenoxy group and a naphthyloxy group, and the like. In particular, preferably a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group, a methyl group, an ethyl group, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a phenoxy group, and a naphthyloxy group. The substitution position of R¹ described above in a group (2) to (4) is not particularly limited, and a favorable substitution position is such position that the introduction of an acid group is not intervened.

Page 13, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 as follows:



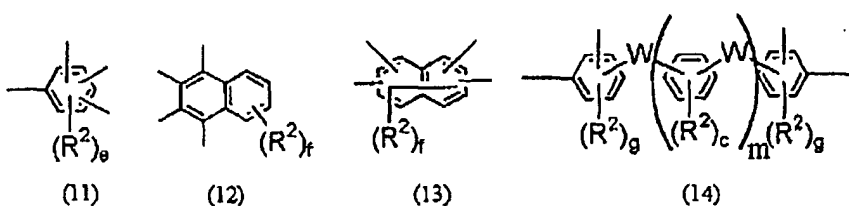
In the formula, Z¹ and Z² each independently represent is a direct bond, -O- or -S-, and Ar³ and Ar⁴ are each independently an aromatic group selected from the group represented by the following formula (6) to (10).

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 as follows:



In the formula, R^2 is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a ~~nitril~~nitrile group, a nitro group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted aryl group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, or an optionally substituted aryloxy group with a carbon number of 6 to 10. c is an integer of 0 to 4, and d is an integer of 0 to 6. In the case of the presence of plural R^2 , R^2 may be the same or different, or be bonded to each other to form a cyclic partial structure. W is a direct bond, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-CO-$, $-SO_2-$, an optionally substituted alkylene group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, or an optionally substituted alkylenedioxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 5, and m is an integer of 0 to 2. In the case of the presence of plural W , W may be the same or different. In the case where W is substituted with plural substituents,

the substituents may be bonded to each other and the bonding between two substituents composes a part of cyclic structure. A is -O-, -S-, or -NR³- (R³ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10), and two of A may be the same as or different from each other. Ar⁵ is an aromatic group selected from the group represented by the following formulae (11) to (14)



In the formula, R^2 , W and m are the same as the above, e is an integer of 0 to 2, f is an integer of 0 to 4, and g is an integer of 0 to 3.